

VZCZCXYZ0000
OO RUEHWEB

DE RUEHTU #0028 0041651
ZNY SSSSS ZZH
O 041651Z JAN 07
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2423
INFO RUCNMGH/MAGHREB COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY 0143
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

S E C R E T TUNIS 000028

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

FOR NEA/FO - GRAY; NEA/MAG - HOPKINS AND HARRIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/04/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [TS](#)
SUBJECT: BEN ALI'S MEDICAL AILMENTS REQUIRE BI-WEEKLY
TREATMENT

REF: A. 06 TUNIS 2237
[1](#)B. 06 TUNIS 0055
[1](#)C. 05 TUNIS 2265
[1](#)D. 05 TUNIS 2148

Classified By: Ambassador Robert F. Godec for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (S/NF) According to the German Ambassador Peter Schmidt, Tunisian President Ben Ali is suffering from multiple medical ailments, for which he is treated by a German doctor every two weeks. Amb. Schmidt said that Ben Ali's medical conditions include arthritis, insomnia, and psychological issues (NFI). This information was conveyed in the course of an hour-long courtesy call with the Ambassador on January 3.

[1](#)2. (S/NF) Comment: Although the German Ambassador mentioned nothing about Ben Ali's reported prostate cancer, his information otherwise tracks with previous reports we have heard about Ben Ali's health situation, which is a frequent topic of conversation in the Tunisian rumor mill (Reftels). Amb. Schmidt has been in Tunisia just over two years, and appeared confident in his knowledge about the details of the medical visits by the German medical doctor. We consider him a credible source of information on the topic. End Comment.
GODEC